AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions or listings of claims.

1. (Previously presented) A carrier for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection, comprising

a) at least one immobilized cardiolipin and

b) at least one immobilized Treponema-specific antigen.

2. (Currently amended) The carrier according to 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin is present together with lecithin and cholesterol as VDRL antigen, said products being preferably present in a mass ratio of cardiolipin : lecithin : ~~cholesterolof~~ cholesterol of 0.1-4.0 : 1-5.0 : 1-10.

3. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin is present in at least two, preferably at least three, particularly preferably at least four different concentrations at different positions of the carrier.

4. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that at least two, preferably at least three, particularly preferably at least four different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

5. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the antigens are selected from Treponema pallidum-specific antigen, preferably the 15 kD, 17 kD, 44.5 kD and 47 kD antigen.

6. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises further controls.

7. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that one control is a serum control, preferably protein A.

8. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that one control is a cut-off control, preferably comprising purified human immunoglobulin.

9. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a serum control which preferably comprises protein A and a cut-off control which preferably comprises human immunoglobulin.

10. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is selected from nitrocellulose, PVDF (polyvinylidene difluoride), nylon, cellulose acetate, and polystyrene.

11. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is designed as a test strip for use in immunodiagnostics.

12. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is designed as an immunoblot.

13. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the VDRL antigen bands applied to the carrier allow a differentiation between anti-VDRL-IgG and anti-VDRL-IgM antibodies after reaction with a patient's sample, preferably selected from blood, serum, plasma, liquor or synovial fluid.

14. (Previously presented) A method for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection characterized in that a carrier according to claim 1 is contacted with a patient's sample and the presence of antibodies against a Treponema antigen and/or a cardiolipin is determined.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the reactivity of antibodies from a patient's serum with the cardiolipin of the test strip is determined several times over a prolonged period of time.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the patient's sample is blood, serum, plasma, liquor or synovial fluid.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the assessment is performed through the evaluation software ViraScan®.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that anti-VDRL-IgG and anti-VDRL-IgM antibodies are differentiated in a patient's sample.

19. (Previously presented) A test kit for the diagnosis of a Treponema infection and/or the follow-up of a Treponema infection, comprising a carrier according to claim 1 and further reagents as well as an instruction manual for carrying out the detection method.

20. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing or following-up a Treponema infection in a patient comprising:

contacting a sample from a patient with ~~Use of~~ a carrier according to claim 1 ~~in diagnostics and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection~~ and

measuring antibodies from the sample bound to the carrier.